

Press-Herald

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REID L. BUNDY Managing Editor
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Another Step Forward

Torrance takes another forward step in providing protection for the life and property of her citizens tomorrow when a new fire alarm system becomes operational.

Consisting of 102 alarm boxes located at major intersections in the city and modern electronic equipment, the system employs direct telephone lines — "hot lines" — between the fire department and persons reporting fires or other emergencies. It represents only the first phase of a network which eventually will include some 300 alarm boxes.

Advantages of the system should be obvious. It will provide free and direct communications with the fire department 24 hours a day. It will make possible quick reports of emergency situations, resulting in quicker response to the alarm. Precious seconds will not be lost looking for and dialing numbers or fumbling for a dime.

Activation of the first phase represents a dream come true for Fire Chief J. J. Benner and his men. Chief Benner, who is due to retire later this year, has worked for many years to improve his department — already rated as one of the finest in the nation — by using the most modern equipment available.

Installed by Pacific Telephone and General Telephone for the city, the new system incorporates the latest advances in telephone communications. To report a fire or other emergency, a citizen need only lift the telephone receiver in the alarm box. An operator will ask for the location and nature of the fire while electronic equipment automatically records the date, time, and location, as well as the actual conversation.

The system also includes improved communications between the city's various fire stations, including backup systems to prevent a complete failure.

While the alarm boxes provide increased protection for the city and its residents, they also present some dangers. Chief Benner has warned that tampering with the boxes or making false reports is a crime — and the department is prepared to make violators feel the full weight of the law.

The alarm system is no toy. It is designed for the protection of the city and it can function at its best when it is not misused.

It also serves as a tribute to the foresight and the dedication of the men charged with protecting this city against the ravages of fire.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Parents Seek Board Action

Editor, Press-Herald

This is an open letter to the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District regarding double sessions at Hickory School.

The purpose of the letter is to demand that the Board take immediate action to resolve the problem of double sessions at the Hickory School.

Despite the fact that this matter was first submitted to the Board on April 25, 1966, no positive action has yet been taken to relieve the problem.

At the May 2, 1966, meeting of the School Board, a recommendation was made that trailers be leased as an interim solution to the classroom shortage problem. The taxpayers were advised that this was a short term problem, and that trailer leasing would not be favorable to public opinion. Since the taxpayers' funds are currently available, we fail to see how the use of these funds insure an adequate education for our children could possibly be unfavorable to anyone.

The taxpayers are aware that funds are now available in uncommitted reserves and that the reserve position is substantially in excess of recommended requirements. The Board is reminded that this is the taxpayers' money, that the taxpayers voted a school tax override to ensure the best possible education for their children, and the same taxpayers now demand that their tax money, which is available, be used for that purpose.

All taxpayers who are interested in avoiding a substandard level of education for their children at the Hickory School are encouraged to attend the Aug. 1 meeting of the Board of Education at 7:30 p.m.

This letter was proposed by representatives of the homeowners associations of the Hickory School area. Organized groups and individuals will attend the Aug. 1 meeting, demanding that the Board take positive and

necessary action to resolve the double sessions situation at Hickory School.

WALTER R. RUHLOW, Director, Marble Estates Homeowners

VINCENT R. FONTANA, Director, Marble Estates Homeowners

ARNOLD KATZ, President, Hickory Homeowners

BOB MORRIS, President, Palo Del Amo Homeowners

She Disagrees

Editor, Press-Herald

Regarding your article "A Case of Deception," Sunday, July 24, you have your values a little mixed up.

Consumers are not being told — Consumers are doing the telling! We do need laws to protect us in the market place. You say that we have the impression there is something dishonest about the mass distribution system? How about that!

I can see you are defending the system, but why? It has overstepped its boundaries and actually become dishonest with itself. How honest is this:

A 1-lb. loaf of bread is about 15 oz.; a 1 lb. pkg. of potato chips is 14 oz.; a half quart of liquid refreshment is 15 oz.; "5c off" is only stamped on after the price has been raised 5 cents.

A homemaker has to be an expert with a slide rule to be her own policeman, and a psychologist to resist all the gimmicks and come-ons designed to tempt her to buy!

"So she can take her patronage elsewhere," you state.

She is still stuck with "an unsaleable box of cereal or soap," and the manufacturer (cunning creature) still has her 39 cents.

If those not quite truthful advertisers or those not quite ethical manufacturers concentrated on quality and fairness, we would have no need for all those "Truth in Packaging" bills.

MRS. ROXANNE MUISE
4017 Bluff Street

Someone Calling Me?



SACRAMENTO REPORT

Influencing Legislation Simple As One-Two-Three

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District

I am on the mailing list of many organizations which send me their publications, form letters, etc. For example, I am on the "free list" to receive weekly a monthly newspaper, magazines and bulletins, such as The Sheep Breeders' Journal, The Bulletin of the Chico Mutual Burial Society, etc. Some of these publications issued by what may be very uplifting societies are not of much help to me in representing the 46th Assembly District in the Legislature. Others are useful at times.

In the latter category is the California Retailers Association, the Managing Director of which is Vincent D. Kennedy, with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento. A recent mailing from Mr. Kennedy to the members of his association included suggestions on how to influence legislation at all levels. I received a copy and am quoting it in this issue of my family journal because it is of general interest. Please remember that it was prepared primarily for retail merchants who have printed letterheads, secretaries, etc. Here it is:

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"LEGISLATORS WILL LISTEN"

We Quote...

I have long contended that the average American citizen at the grass-roots level exhibits far more common sense than government bureaucrats here in Washington who strive so zealously to manipulate our nation's economy.—Rep. Edward Derwinski (R-11).

Congress should not delegate to the executive branch so-called "stand by authority" to impose wage and price controls. If and when the exigencies of national security dictate, Congress can promptly enact legislation for that purpose.

But the Congress and not the President should decide if and when that time comes.—Rep. Richard Poff (R-Va.).

"Why

"An appropriate letter to your legislator is of utmost importance to you and your elected representative — it's important that your legislator know your inside story from YOU on measures that affect YOU.

"Don't feel your letter would impose upon your representative. Regardless of what some people think, your legislator wants to hear from his constituents. He wants to know how pending legislation will affect the people he represents. This is true even if his philosophy is entirely different from yours.

"Legislators frequently get bundles of letters on frivolous matters, little or none on important issues. Frequently, the letters they receive demand a particular vote without giving any reasons. Informative letters requesting action on subjects of real concern are the exception and are particularly welcomed. So do not hesitate to write.

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"What To Do

1. Use your business letterhead whenever possible.
2. Sign your name legibly or type it if necessary.
3. Be informed on the subject you are writing about.

4. Be courteous at all times, personal when appropriate.

5. Identify the subject of your letter by bill number or issue.

6. State the reasons for the position you are taking.

7. Show how you, yourself, will be affected.

8. Use your own words.

9. Request action.

10. Write a letter of thanks when your legislator's action pleases you.

11. Send a copy of your letter to your California Retailers Association offices. Such information is valuable to your Association staff. Likewise, send a copy of the reply you receive, when possible.

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"What Not to Do

1. Do not send mimeographed letters.
2. If you are using arguments from California Retailers Association material, do not copy verbatim. Change the wording; list the reasons in a different order or pick one or two and relate them to your own business.
3. Don't make demands."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Campaign Against Egypt Added to Military Lore

For collectors of military lore, "Diary of the Sinai Campaign," by Major-General Moshe Dayan, is one of the most stirring (and certainly most literate) documents in recent annals of warfare. This is based on the diaries of this veteran of the British army and the Israeli war for independence who was chief-of-staff of Israeli forces during the 1956 Suez crisis. He masterminded the lightning strike against Egypt, an action that embarrassed and frustrated President Nasser and other Arab state chiefs who since, have come to respect the power and discipline of the Israeli military.

Israel was forced into large-scale action in 1956 in the Sinai, the Arab-held area between the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Akaba, because of constant harassment inside its territory by Egyptian terrorist forces and also by Egypt's blockade of Israel's southern port, Eilat, near the Red Sea. It undertook the action just as Britain and France agreed to jointly seize the Suez Canal by force after Nasser announced its nationalization by Egypt.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

No Buttons, No Leaflets To Mark Her Quiet Vigil

Oh what a lovely war: Every morning, between 9 and 11, a woman dressed all in black walks slowly back and forth in front of the California Funeral Service on Valencia St. She carries no signs, wears no buttons, hands out no leaflets because "This is not a protest, nor is it anything political, it is simply a vigil." She is Kay Boyle, the internationally-known novelist and short story writer (long featured in The New Yorker) who now teaches at S.F. State. . . . The California Funeral Service is where Marine and Navy dead are "processed," to use the military term, on their return from Viet Nam (Army dead go to Travis AF Base). "I don't have any accurate statistics," Miss Boyle said yesterday, "but 10 bodies arrived this morning and 11 last Friday. I would estimate between 30 and 45 a week." Then she hung up to resume her lonely vigil on the quiet street where the dead come home.

Pocketful of Notes: Restaurateur Alexis Merab, owner of fabled Alexis' on Nob Hill, spent a miserable night at St. Francis Hospital. While he was dining in a booth at his own place, a waiter tipped a pot of scalding coffee onto his head (second degree burns, first-degree screams). Nevertheless, head swathed in a turban of bandages, he flew out for Paris, where a syndicate wants to back him in a Near Eastern restaurant.

Trade Election Poll at Trader Schnook's bar in the Marina District came out 75 for Ronnie, 30 for Pat Brown, and 157 undecided but moderately drunk.

My favorite greeting card of the moment says (on the outside) "While you are reading this card the world and population has increased by

15 1/2 people" and (on the inside) "Stop reading this card." Earplug City: As of Cap'n Andy used to chortle on the Maxwell House "Showboat," quote, "You ain't heard NOthin' yet, folks." Or maybe you gonna hear PLENTY of nothin', for something called "Count-down USA" is dickering to take over the Cow Palace during Christmas week (silent night, holy night) to present ONE THOUSAND rock'n' groups! This phantasmaglorious event will run from 10 a.m. to midnight for eight days, with the various groups playing simultaneously on seven different stages — and the winning group will go on a world tour, to spread further their message of peace and good will. Holy Cow Palace!

San Francisco name escapes us, dropped in at the Condor and shook hands with Doorman Aldo del Prete, who reported in awe: "It felt like pawing an African diamond mine."

Add infinites: I wish I could say this happened "Only in San Francisco" but it happened only in Vancouver, B.C., quote from the Sun: "A housewife was fined \$1 when she pleaded guilty to assaulting a man who made advances to her husband on a downtown street. Magistrate Les Bewley told Mrs. Barbara Graham, 41, it appeared she was only protecting her own property against unfair competition," and that's Vancouver, folks.

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Barrel's bottom: Jokes is the Catholic Digest??? Why not. So the draft board asks this young man "What's your occupation?" and he replies "Comedian." Suggests an examiner: "Okay, say something funny." Turning to the long line of potential draftees behind him, the young man hollers: "You can go home now, fellas, I got the job!" . . . Jokes in San Quentin??? Why sure. Jon Carey says his inmate pal, Melvin Fenstermacher, is filing a writ on the grounds that his lawyer was incompetent and immature. "When the judge called recess," Melvin told Jon, "my lawyer went outside and played on the swings."

ROYCE BRIER

Supertrain Whisks Rusk To Meaty Japanese Talks

Secretary of State Rusk, on his official visit to Japan, followed the tourist route by taking the 125-mile-an-hour train from Kyoto to Tokyo.

But Mr. Rusk is not a tourist. He is almost an Old China Hand, and critics can hardly brand him as an amateur if they don't like his rationalization of policy in southeast Asia.

Aside from anti-American elements in Japan, Rusk got along well with members of the pro-American Sato government. There are two main contentions between the United States and Japan: the American base in Okinawa, and Japanese trade with Red China. Mr.

Rusk can do little about either.

A Tokyo news story said Premier Eisaku Sato, at a dinner for Rusk in Kyoto, said: "It is my hope that leaders of (Red China) will not invite isolation upon themselves."

In view of the setting, Red China leaders are not likely to heed Mr. Sato, but

World Affairs

in any case it is a narrow and arid base for a news story in a situation where such immense forces are in play.

Japan naturally resents the Okinawa base. Yet it is

the main anchor of American power in the western Pacific, and many Japanese acknowledge that Japan's security rests upon it. Hence, Japanese are of two minds on Okinawa, and the Sato government is under opposing pressures.

Japanese are also acutely aware of Red China's three nuclear bombs, and here again opposing pressures develop in Japan over China trade. Japanese businessmen thirst for that trade because it is the natural short-haul market for their technical goods. It is a thin market, but big.

Red China cannot at present produce integrated electronic, petrochemical or textile plants. She needs all three, and is believed to be assembling plants in one or two categories for sale.

Mr. Rusk, as a proponent of the American "boycott" of Red China, is compelled to oppose such sales, and it is a stalemate in American-Japanese relations.

But the Japanese will do everything possible to avoid selling technical goods which would increase China's nuclear capability.

Yet even larger forces are at work. There has been a rapprochement of sorts in Russo-Japanese relations. Now some Tokyo world-thinkers are saying the Soviet Union, for the long haul, favors close American-Japanese relations with Japan's security guaranteed by the United States.

This may sound odd to Americans, but the reasoning is as follows: if the American guaranty were withdrawn, Japan would be forced either: (1) to start a nuclear weapons program, or, (2) join China in an Asian bloc. In view of the Sino-Russian quarrel, addition of Japanese technology to China's manpower would endanger the entire position of the Soviet Union in Asia.

Perhaps you have to sit in Tokyo to perceive, or think you perceive, such far-flung forces at work. But Mr. Rusk, in responding to Premier Sato, reaffirmed America's protection of Japan from outside attack.

Morning Report:

Abe Mellinkoff is on vacation. His "Morning Report" will be resumed on his return.

Abe Mellinkoff